Appl. No. : 10/713,244
Filed : November 13, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of fabricating an implantable medical device having at least one porous layer for releasably containing at least one therapeutic agent, the method comprising:

providing an implantable medical device comprising at least one alloy; and

removing at least one component of the alloy to form the at least one porous layer.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the removing step is performed so as to form the porous layer as a biocompatible material.

3. (Not entered) A method as in claim 2, wherein the biocompatible material comprises a cobalt-chromium alloy~~gold~~.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the implantable medical device comprises providing a tubular stent device having an outer surface and an inner surface.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 4, wherein the stent device comprises a coronary artery stent for use in a percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty procedure.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 4, wherein the at least one alloy is disposed along the outer surface of the stent device.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the implantable medical device includes depositing the at least one alloy on at least one surface of the medical device.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy is disposed along an outer surface of the implantable medical device, such that the removing step forms the porous layer on the outer surface of the device.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alloy comprises at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, nitinol, steel, chromium, iron, nickel, copper, aluminum, titanium, tantalum, cobalt, tungsten, palladium, vanadium, platinum and niobium.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising embedding at least one substance within the alloy before the removing step.

12. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of a salt and silicon dioxide particles.

13. (Not entered) A method as in claim 1, wherein removing the at least one component comprises exposing a ~~stainless steel~~cobalt-chromium alloy to sodium hydroxide.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein removing the at least one component comprises dissolving a most electrochemically active component of the alloy.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising introducing the at least one therapeutic agent into the porous layer.

17. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein introducing the at least one therapeutic agent comprises introducing by at least one of liquid immersion, and vacuum dessication.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 16, wherein the at least one therapeutic agent comprises at least one anti-restenosis agent or anti-inflammatory agent for inhibiting restenosis of a coronary artery.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the device is provided with multiple layers of alloy and multiple components are removed to provide a device having multiple porous layers.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 19, wherein the multiple porous layers have different porosities and different atomic compositions.

21. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising forming a porous layer on an inner lumen of the device.

22. (Original) A method as in claim 21, further comprising disposing live cells within the porous layer of the internal lumen, the porous layer having a porosity to allow transport of at least some molecules to the live cells while preventing access of at least some immune system agents to the cells.

Claims 23-41 (Canceled)

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